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Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JUNE 29 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN AS SAYING PRESIDENT CARTER "IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH MR. BREZHNEV AT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIME AND PLACE." ONE POSSIBILITY, OFFICIALS SAID, IS FOR SOVIET LEADER TO HOLD INFORMAL TALKS WITH CARTER IN ALASKA, SIMILAR TO THREE-DAY MEETING BETWEEN GERALD FORD AND BREZHNEV IN VLADIVOSTOK IN NOVEMBER, 1974. GWERTZMAN COMMENTED THAT "MEETING BETWEEN TWO LEADERS WOULD BE AIMED AT CLEARING AIR AND ALLOWING THEM TO BECOME PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED. THERE SEEMS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE NEW AGREEMENT LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS BEFORE CURRENT, FIVE-YEAR ACCORD EXPIRES ON OCT. 3." GWERTZMAN NOTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE, AT BREAKFAST MEETING WITH REPORTERS, SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT NEW AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED BY THAT TIME, BUT THAT THIS IN
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ITSELF WAS NOT CAUSE FOR ALARM. "HE HAS SAID REPEATEDLY THAT IT IS BETTER NOT TO APPEAR TO BE SIGNING ACCORD IN HASTE, AND THAT IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER FIVE-YEAR ACCORD LAPSES SO LONG AS NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN TRAIN FOR NEW ONE," TIMES CORRESPONDENT POINTED OUT. "BUT SOME SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE SAID THAT THERE HAS TO BE LIKELIHOOD OF NEW STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD BEFORE MEETING CAN BE HELD. THAT

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WAS ALSO VIEW OF FORD ADMINISTRATION. MR. BRZEZINSKI AND MR. CARTER HAVE SAID PUBLICLY THAT THERE IS VALUE IN CARTER-BREZHNEV MEETING EVEN WITHOUT NEW ARMS CONTROL TREATY." GWERTZMAN SAID VANCE AFFIRMED THAT SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES REMAINED IN ARMS TALKS BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROGRESS WHEN HE AND GROMYKO AGREED UPON NEW FRAMEWORK FOR COMPLETING NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED REUTER DISPATCH REPORTING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER ON JUNE 28 NOMINATED GERARD SMITH AS AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING POLICIES TO STOP SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. SMITH, WHO SERVED IN NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS, ALSO WAS NOMINATED AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. "IF CONFIRMED, SMITH WILL GUIDE U.S. EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES, AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES," DISPATCH SAID.

3. DREW MIDDLETON IN NEWS ANALYSIS IN JUNE 29 NEW YORK TIMES SAID CARTER'S "WILLINGNESS TO CHALLENGE SOVIET UNION POLITICALLY AND IDEOLOGICALLY IN WORLD'S TROUBLE SPOTS STRIKES NUMBER OF AMERICAN FRIENDS IN ALLIED, NEUTRAL AND FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS AS WORTHY BUT SLIGHTLY UNREALISTIC POSITION. DIPLOMATS, SOLDIERS AND POLITICIANS INTERVIEWED IN SIX WEEKS OF TRAVEL IN WESTERN EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST ARGUED THAT EFFECTIVE CHALLENGE MUST BE BACKED BY CON-
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VENTIONAL MILITARY POWER AND BE SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC OPINION. ALLIED MILITARY OPINION IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN OVER-ALL SHIFT IN POWER BALANCE, ESPECIALLY IN CONVENTIONAL FORCES, IN FAVOR OF SOVIET UNION. THEY ARE CONCERNED BY WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS AMERICAN PUBLIC'S FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THIS SHIFT AND CONSEQUENT UNWILLINGNESS TO RESTORE BALANCE."

4. BERNARD WEINRAUB IN NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES "IN MOVE THAT BUOYED PROPONENTS OF B-1 STRATEGIC BOMBER, VOTED TODAY TO SUPPORT PRODUCTION OF EXPENSIVE AND CONTROVERSIAL WEAPONS SYSTEM.... VOTE, AFTER HEATED, SOMETIMES EMOTIONAL DEBATE, CAME ON AMEND-MENT TO STRIKE 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS FROM DEFENSE APPROPRIA-TIONS BILL FOR PROCUREMENT OF FIVE B-1 BOMBERS. MOVE BY OPPONENTS OF PLANE WAS DESIGNED TO STOP PROGRAM AS IT MOVED INTO PRODUCTION PHASE. AMENDMENT, OFFERED BY REP. JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, DEMOCRAT FROM QUEENS, WAS REJECTED BY VOTE OF 243 TO 178."

5. IN EDITORIAL, NEW YORK TIMES COMMENTED ON CHOICES CARTER FACES REGARDING UPCOMING DECISION ON B-1. TIMES

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FAVORED OPTION WHICH WOULD BE "COMBINATION OF MODIFIED
B-52'S AND STAND-OFF BOMBERS -- CHEAPEST WAY TO GET CRUISE
MISSILES TO LAUNCH POINT AND TO RETAIN BOMBER PENETRATION
CAPABILITY FOR MANY YEARS. THAT WOULD TAKE CARE OF
STRATEGIC NEEDS WELL INTO 1990'S WITH OUTLAY OF 10 TO
15 BILLION DOLLARS LESS THAN FULL B-1 PROGRAM, ACCORDING
TO BROOKINGS INSTITUTION STUDY." TIMES SAID THIS OPTION
"RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTS CRUISE MISSILE, WHICH WOULD BE BETTER
BANNED IN SALT TALKS. IF IT WERE, STRONGER ARGUMENT WOULD
EMERGE FOR B-1 OR CHEAPER PENETRATION BOMBER FOR 1990'S.
BUT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY LIKELIHOOD OF CRUISE-MISSILE
BAN." TIMES EDITORIAL SAID PRESIDENT CARTER WILL PROVE
HIMSELF STATESMAN BY "CLEAN DECISION TO ABANDON" B-1
PROGRAM. VANCE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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